

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FOR COMMERCE/BIC/OED/MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BMED, EC

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: QUITO SUBWAY

REF: QUITO 758; B. STATE 50415; C. QUITO 2904; D. QUITO 3067

1. TEAM OF FOUR ENGINEERS FROM JAPAN TRANSPORT CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION (JTCA) (REF D) HAS COME AND GONE, AFTER CONDUCTING TWO-WEEK PREFEASIBILITY STUDY. JTCA TEAM DIRECTOR SUBMITTED TO PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER A BRIEF INTERIM REPORT OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ALONG WITH NOTE ADVISING MINISTER THAT COLLECTED DATA WOULD BE EXAMINED MORE IN DEPTH IN JAPAN, BUT THAT QUOTE NO DRASTIC CHANGES WILL RESULT FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS UNQUOTE. FINAL REPORT WAS PROMISED BY AUGUST.

2. INTERIM REPORT CONCLUDES THAT MAIN TRUNK LINES INTO CITY ARE INSUFFICIENT TO COPE WITH HEAVY TRAFFIC DEMAND, THAT SOLUTION IS NOT IMPROVEMENT OR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS, AND THAT CITY TRAFFIC WILL BE PARALYZED IN NEAR FUTURE UNLESS STEPS TAKEN SOON. JTCA TEAM SUGGESTS THAT URBAN MASS TRANSIT RAIL SYSTEM BE CONSIDERED, AND THAT SUBWAY SYSTEM IS THE BEST SOLUTION. SYSTEM WOULD COMBINE UNDERGROUND SECTION IN DENSELY BUILT-UP AREA WITH ABOVE-GROUND ELEVATED RAILWAY ELSEWHERE.

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3. IN ADDITION, JTCA RECOMMENDS IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING ROADS,

TRAFFIC SIGNALS, AND STRENGTHENING OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS IMPROVED BUS TRANSPORT SYSTEM. JTCA RECOMMENDS THAT A COMPREHENSIVE OVERALL STUDY OF QUITO URBAN TRANSPORT SYSTEM BE INITIATED WITHOUT DELAY, ADDING THAT SUCH STUDY WILL TAKE 2-3 YEARS AND SHOULD BE DIVIDED INTO SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEW MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM FEASIBILITY PHASES. OVERALL URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY, SAYS JTCA, CALLS FOR EXPERTS FROM VARIOUS DISCIPLINES AND ASSIGNMENT OF STUDY TO EXPERIENCED CONSULTING FIRM. JAPANESE FIRM ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID BE SOUGHT FROM INTERNATIONAL AGENCY OR FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IN ORDER THAT STUDY MAY BE CARRIED OUT SUCCESSFULLY.

4. COMMENT: INTERIM REPORT, ONLY SIX PAGES, APPEARS BASED ON CURSORY OBSERVATION AND SOME DELVING INTO RECORDS ON POPULATION GROWTH, PASSENGER SERVICE, ETC. IT DRAWS OBVIOUS CONCLUSIONS ABOUT TRAFFIC PROBLEMS AND OFFERS NO ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN A MASS RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM. THE REPORT SEEMS DESIGNED TO CONVINCE THE GOE THAT FURTHER SERVICES OF JTCA ARE NEEDED. EMBASSY IS POUCHING COPY OF REPORT.
BREWSTER

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